

Remarks

This is a Response to the Official Action dated March 14, 2005.

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the Application.

Allowable Claims

The Applicant acknowledges with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to Claims 3-6 and 12-13.

Specification

The response amends paragraph paragraph at page 5, line 15 to page 6, line 20 of the specification by replacing the phrase "light guide surface 110" with "light emitting surface 110." Support for the paragraph can be found in Figure 3. No new subject matter has been added.

Claims 1-13

This response amends Claim 1 to clarify the language of the claim. Support for the amendment can be found in Figure 3. No new subject matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1 and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA) (Figure 1B) and further in view of Won (U.S. Patent No. 6,046,785). Claims 1 and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA) (Figure 1B) and further in view of Kubo (JP Patent No. 10-161114).

Applicant submits that the Examiner has **not** established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicant notes:

"To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, **the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.** The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure" (emphases added) *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Applicant submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to show that APA and Won teach each and every element as claimed in the present application.

Applicant submits that the Examiner has not shown that APA and Won disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by Claim 1, as amended, of the present application:

“said reflector having ... a first holder, and a second holder ... the first holder having a first linking member, and the second holder having a second linking member... wherein the first and second coupling members are respectively directly combined with the first and second linking members”

The Examiner asserts that the limitation of “the first and second coupling members are respectively directly combined with the first and second linking members” as recited in Claim 1 is not disclosed in APA but is disclosed by Won’s “groove 110” that interconnects with a “protrusion 310” on the “frame 200.” See page 6, lines 8-14 of the Official Action. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s assertion.

As indicated by the Examiner, Won’s protrusions “310” are on the frame “200.” Because the protrusions “310” are on the frame “220,” Won does not teach, disclose or suggest “the first and second coupling members are respectively directly combined with the first and second linking members” as recited in amended Claim 1 wherein it is the reflector that contains “the first holder having a first linking member, and the second holder having a second linking member” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Hence, Claim 1 is patentable over APA and Won and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 2-11 depend from Claim 1. “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, in light of the above discussion of Claim 1, Applicant submits that Claims 2-11 are also allowable.

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Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to show that APA and Kubo teach each and every element as claimed in the present application.

Applicant submits that the Examiner has not shown that APA and Kubo disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by Claim 1, as amended, of the present application:

“a light guide plate having ... the first coupling lateral side having a first coupling member and the second coupling lateral side having a second coupling member, wherein the first coupling lateral side and the second coupling lateral side are generally perpendicular to the light emitting

surface ... said reflector having ... a first holder, and a second holder ... the first holder having a first linking member, and the second holder having a second linking member... wherein the first and second coupling members are respectively directly combined with the first and second linking members”

The Examiner asserts that the limitation of “the first and second coupling members are respectively directly combined with the first and second linking members” as recited in Claim 1 is not disclosed in APA but is disclosed by Kubo. See page 8, lines 18-21 of the Official Action. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s assertion.

According to Kubo, the light guide plate “1” contains an upper major surface and a lower major surface wherein the reflector “2” contacts the light guide plate “1’s” upper and lower major surface. Because Kubo only teaches that the reflector “2” contacts the light guide plate’s upper and lower major surface, Kubo does not teach, disclose or suggest “a light guide plate having ... the first coupling lateral side having a first coupling member and the second coupling lateral side having a second coupling member, wherein the first coupling lateral side and the second coupling lateral side are generally perpendicular to the light emitting surface ... wherein the first and second coupling members are respectively directly combined with the first and second linking members” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Applicant further submits that the combination of APA and Kubo would also not teach at least the features of Claim 1 stated above for the following reasons.

Applicant submits the combination of APA and Kubo would produce a device as shown in Figure enclosed herein. Based on the teaching of APA and Kubo one skilled in the art would come up with the light guide plate 40 containing protrusions 42 and 44 wherein only the protrusions 44 that are disposed on the light guide plate 40’s major surface would be contacting the reflector 30. See enclosed Figure. One skilled in the art would not arrive at the “a light guide plate having ... the first coupling lateral side having a first

coupling member and the second coupling lateral side having a second coupling member, wherein the first coupling lateral side and the second coupling lateral side are generally perpendicular to the light emitting surface ... said reflector having ... a first holder, and a second holder ... the first holder having a first linking member, and the second holder having a second linking member... wherein the first and second coupling members are respectively directly combined with the first and second linking members” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Applicant submits that APA and Kubo individually and in combination do not teach each and every element as claimed in the present invention and the Examiner has **not** established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Hence, Claim 1 is patentable over APA and Kubo and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 2-11, at least based on their dependency on Claim 1, are also believed to be patentable over APA and Kubo.

Conclusion

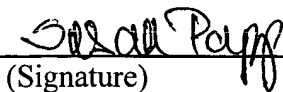
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents POB 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

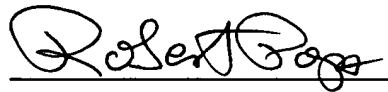
June 13, 2005
(Date of Deposit)

Susan Papp
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June 13, 2005
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